

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are now in the application. Claim 6 has been amended to depend from claim 4. Claim 1 is directed to the elected invention. It is hereby requested that claim 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 be rejoined with claim 1. Claims 2, 3, 5 and 11-12 are drawn to non-elected inventions and may be canceled by the examiner upon the allowance of the claims directed to the elected invention. ✓

The recent interview so courteously granted the undersigned by Examiner Wilson is hereby noted with appreciation.

As discussed during said interview, the Title and Abstract have been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over JP'528, optionally in view of admissions by Applicant. JP'528 does not anticipate and does not render obvious the present invention.

The present invention is structurally different from the reference in that the crosslink structure, as a result of that, the claimed crosslinked polymer having the crosslink structure of general formula (1) exhibits unexpected properties when compared with the compositions disclosed in JP'528.

At the interview, the attached Declaration under Rule 132 was discussed and found to demonstrate the criticality for the claimed crosslinked polymer having the crosslink structure of general formula (1).

In this Declaration, the claimed crosslinked polymer having the crosslink structure of general formula (1) was synthesized by the polymerization of diallyldimethylammonium chloride (DADMAC) with N,N,N',N'-tetraallyldipiperidylpropanium dichloride (TADPPC), and the composition disclosed in JP'528 was synthesized by the polymerization of dialkyldiallylammonium chloride with N,N,N',N'-tetraallylpiperazine dichloride. These crosslinked polymers are the same in the crosslink density. It was practiced by synthesizing hydroxypropyl acrylate (HPA) from acrylic acid (AA) and propylene oxide (PO) by means of the

crosslinked polymer used as a catalyst. Analysis of the reaction mixture obtained revealed the conversion and the selectivity.

It is described on page 62, lines 3-9 of the present description that the crosslinked polymer is used in said reaction as a catalyst.

As shown in the Declaration, the comparison of test data clearly shows that the claimed crosslinked polymer achieves superior result and advantage in reactivity as compared to the composition of prior art. Therefore, it was demonstrated that there is the criticality for the claimed crosslinked polymer having the crosslink structure of general formula (1).

In addition, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest such crosslinked polymer having the crosslink structure of general formula (1) and such properties including the reactivity.

Accordingly, as agreed during the interview, the present claim is not anticipated by or, in the alternative, obvious over JP'528, optionally in view of admissions by Applicant.

In view of the above and the amendment to claim 6, applicant requests that claim 1 be allowed and that claims 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 be rejoined and also allowed.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

Dated: 3-13-03

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

In the Claims:

6. (Amended) [A] The method of [producing a] claim 4 wherein the crosslinked polymer is in the form of spherical [particle] particles and the polymerization is carried out in a medium wherein said medium comprises a viscous fluid.